(a) whether Government have a proposed to set up petrol pump outlets in every block of the country under the Kisan Sahayak Kendra Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of petrol pump outlets that has been set up in Orissa so far under this scheme:

(c) whether there is any problem in setting up petrol pump outlets in the scheduled areas of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), *viz.,* Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP) are setting up rural retail outlets (such as Kisan Seva Kendra, Hamara Pump etc) Oil over the country to cater to the needs of farmers, agriculturists and other consumers of petrol and diesel in the rural areas. This has been done with the intention of reaching product predominantly HSD ensuring quality and at the correct price in far-flung areas to meet the rural agricultural demand. These retail outlets are set up at identified rural locations having sufficient potential and found to be economically viable based on survey and feasibility studies.

(b) OMCs have set up 108 rural retail outlets in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The major problem faced by OMCs in setting up of such ROs in the scheduled areas of Orissa is availability of suitable land.

Piped natural gas distribution

3624. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a plan to put 200 cities on the gas distribution and compressed natural gas network;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether it is also a fact that two crore households will reap the benefits of piped natural gas in the next few years for which a road map had been drawn up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) While the Government has not prepared any Action Plan to lay piped natural gas during the year 2007-08, it has prepared a regulatory framework for encouraging investment in this area by enacting 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notifying the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

However, in compliance of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court the following 13 cities will be taken up for development of city gas projects, subject to availability of gas and infrastructure.

1. Agra
2. Lucknow
3. Kanpur
4. Varanasi
5. Pune
6. Faridabad
7. Patna
8. Ahmedabad
9. Sholapur
10 Hyderabad
11. Bangalore
12. Kolkata
13. Chennai

GAIL has also identified the following cities in the vicinity of existing pipeline infrastructure/proposed upcoming pipelines as business fit case;

(1) Allahabad
(2) Bareilly
(3) Jhansi
(4) Mathura
(5) NOIDA
(6) Navi Mumbai

(7) Gwalior

(8) Indore

(9) Ujjain

(10) Rajamundry

(11) Vijayawada

(12) Rajkot

(13) Surendranagar

(14) Kota

(15) Vadodara

While GAIL, through its Jolfit Venture Companies, is supplying CNG to automobiles and Piped Natural Gas PNG to the households in the cities of the country, some other entities have also started so supply CNG & PNG in different parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The cities covered under the piped natural gas network in the country are Delhi, Mumbai, Agartala, Surat, Hazira, Junagam, Vasva, Mora, Damka, Bhatlai, Kawas, Rajgiri, Suwali, Icchapore, Ankleshwar, Bharauch, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Vidyanagar, Anand, Morbi, Gandhinagar, Duliajan, Digboi, Dibrugarh, Moran, Naharkatiya, Sivasagar, Nazira, Simaluguri and Tinsukia.

Piped Natural Gas is at present being supplied to over 2,74,000 homes in Mumbai and its suburbs by Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) and to more than 64,000 households in the various localities in Delhi by Indraprasha Gas Limited (IGL).

PNG to households will be covered in a phased manner, wherever infrastructure is available and is technically feasible.

Indo-lran Gas Pipeline

3625. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposed gas pipeline from Iran;

(b) the details of the discussion in this regard, with Iran and Pakistan, and